

### Remarks/Arguments

Claims 1, 2, 4-15, 18-20 and 25 remain in this application. Claims 3, 16, 17, 21-24 and 26 have been cancelled. New claim 27 has been added.

Claims 1-4, 9, 10, 13- 17, 21-24 and 26 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) or in the alternative under 35 USC 103(a) over Pearl et.al. Applicants disagree.

Pearl teaches the formation of multilayered modules and the assembly of two or more of these multilayered modules, with or without additional layers, into a filtration device. Nowhere does it teach or suggest an integral sealing means or gasket on a single layer such as a feed screen or filter. Additionally, the Office action states that Pearl et.al. teaches the formation of a rim that is thicker than the screen. However, claims 1 and 2 and the claims that depend from them relate to a gasket or sealing means around a port or opening. Pearl fails to teach or suggest doing this.

Pearl does not appear to mention the use or formation of gaskets anywhere in its text. Rather it uses an insert molding technique to create a molded sealed assembly. It is quite unlike the present invention which requires the formation of a gasket formed in place on the desired layer in the desired position. It may be overmolded to form a device similar to Pearl or used in a more traditional plate type of device. As this is neither taught nor suggested by Pearl, Pearl is believed not to be an anticipatory reference.

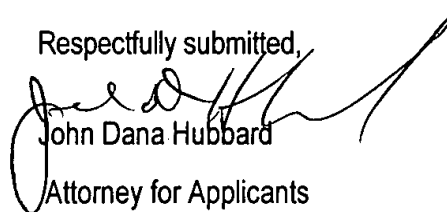
As such Pearl fails to anticipate the claims.

Claims 1-4, 10, 13, 14, 16-19 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) or in the alternative 35 USC 103(a) over Ondrick.

Ondrick shows a multiple layered diffusion dialysis device for the cleaning of plating acids. It is formed of several layers of rectangular gasket material formed from sheets of material (80, 82,84), a membrane sheet, a second set of rectangular gasket material formed from sheets of material (90, 92,94), and a separate open network member (86) disposed within the open chamber formed by the gaskets on each side of the membrane. The sheets of gasket material have holes formed in their periphery to form the various ports. It fails to teach or suggest the use of an integral gasket or sealing means around an opening on the filter or screen as is currently claimed and therefore is not an anticipatory reference. Moreover, the presently claimed invention would not have been obvious from Ondrick to one of ordinary skill in the art. Ondrick doesn't suggest an integral gasket around an opening on a filter or screen. Instead it forms openings on a separate gasket sheet.

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment and remarks.

Respectfully submitted,



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